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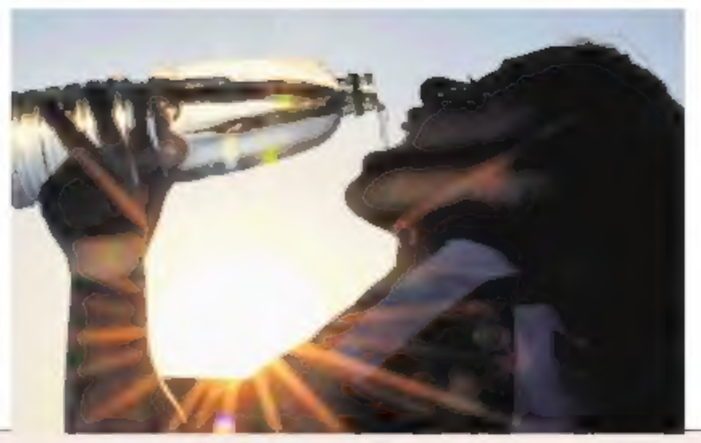

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MAY HEAT WAVE WAS 1.5° CELSIUS WARMER THAN PREVIOUS EXTREMES

Findings of a new rapid attribution study underscore that heat waves in India are reaching unbearable temperature thresholds

HUMAN-DRIVEN CLIMATE CHANGE BLAMED

Researchers at ClimaMeter said the intense heat wave India endured in May was a result of the naturally occurring El Nino phenomenon and the rapidly increasing concentration of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere due to fossil fuel burning. They called it "a largely unique event" that can be ascribed to human-driven climate change | P9

URBANISATION MAKING HEAT WAVES WORSE

- "Warming resulting from climate change has led to an increased frequency, intensity, and duration of heat-related events, including heat waves in most land regions," the researchers noted
- They said rapid urbanisation as seen in India can enhance heat waves as concretes trap heat during the day and release them at night

56

DEATHS DUE TO HEAT REPORTED IN INDIA SINCE THE START OF MARCH

CHENNAI • MADURAI • VIJAYAWADA • BENGALURU • KOCHI • HYDERABAD • VISAKHAPATNAM • COIMBATORE • KOZHIKODE • THIRUVANANTHAPURAM • BELAGAVI • BHUBANESWAR • SHIVAMOGGA • MANGALURU • TIRUPATI • TIRUCHY • TIRUNELVELI • SAMBALPUR • HUBBALLI • DHARMAPURI • KOTTAYAM • KANNUR • VILLUPURAM • KOLLAM • TADEPALLIGUDEM • NAGAPATTINAM • THRISSUR • KALABURAGI

SWEARING-IN OF THE NEW COUNCIL OF MINISTERS TO BE HELD TOMORROW AT 7.15 PM

Modi appointed PM-designate by President Murmu

RAJESH KUMAR THAKUR
@ New Delhi

PRESIDENT Droupadi Murmu on Friday appointed Narendra Modi prime minister-designate after the latter staked his claim to lead the NDA government for the third consecutive time.

The ceremony to administer the oath of office and secrecy to him and his ministerial colleagues will begin at 7.15 pm on Sunday at Rashtrapati Bhavan. After Modi met Murmu, she satisfied herself about the NDA coalition commanding majority in the 18th Lok Sabha before issuing the appointment letter. The letter said the BJP was the single largest party and the NDA the largest pre-poll coalition.

> If we look at numbers, then this is the strongest coalition government in the history of coalitions
>
> Narendra Modi, PM-designate

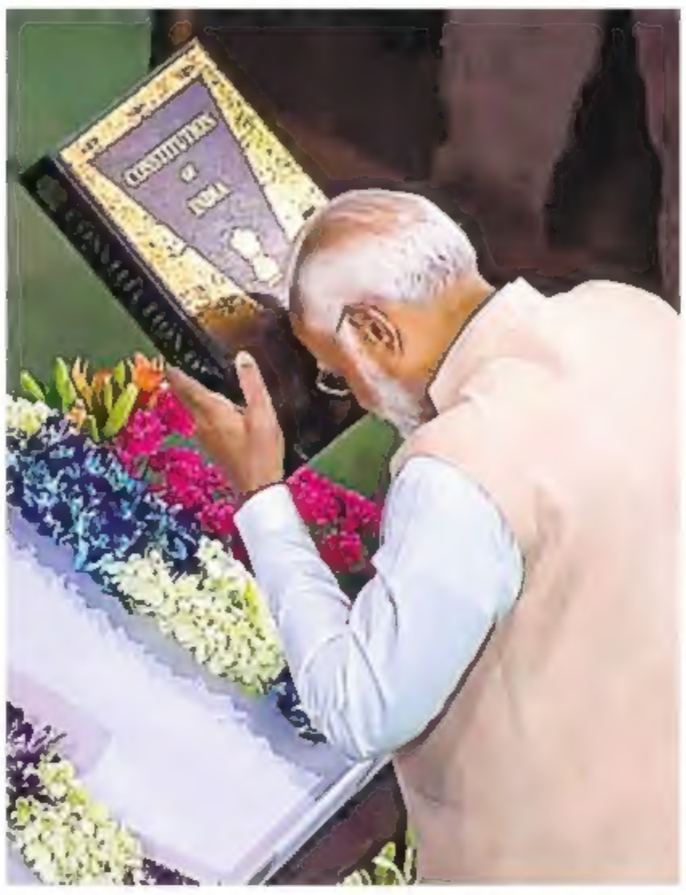
Emerging from Rashtrapati Bhavan, Modi told the media, "As NDA partners have entrusted me with their leadership once again, I will take oath as the PM on June 9. NDA-III will put in even more efforts for developments of India and the realisation of people's aspirations."

Earlier in the day, an NDA delegation called on Murmu. While the BJP handed her a letter on Modi's election as the leader of the BJP Parliamentary Party, NDA leaders submitted their letters of support. The delegation included J P Nadda, Rajnath Singh, Amit Shah, Ashwini Vaishnaw and C N Manjunath (all BJP), TDP chief N Chandrababu Naidu, JD(U)'s Nitish Kumar, Shiv Sena chief Eknath Shinde, JD(S) leader H D Kumaraswamy, LJP(Ram Vilas) leader Chirag Paswan.

The day began with the NDA Parliamentary Party electing Modi as its leader. Nitish was seen trying to touch Modi's feet but the latter stopped him.

In his address, Modi spoke about the vital role of consensus in running the government. Having a "*bahumat* (majority)" is necessary to form government but "*sarvmat* (consensus or unanimity)" is much needed for running the country, he said.

"I want to assure people of the country that you have given us the good fortune to run the government by handing us a majority, and it has then become our responsibility that we continuously strive to ensure unanimity in taking the country forward," Modi said.



Prime Minister Narendra Modi pays respects to the Constitution of India at the NDA Parliamentary Party meeting at Samvidhan Sadan in New Delhi on Friday | PTI

Nitish suggests names of ministers

Nitish Kumar and others NDA leaders went to BJP chief J P Nadda's house to discuss the probable candidates for the Union cabinet. Nitish is learnt to have submitted the names of his three party MPs who could be inducted as Cabinet ministers and ministers of state from the JD(U) quota

RBI keeps rates unchanged for eighth consecutive time

BENN KOCHUVEEDAN @Mumbai

RESOLUTE inflation policing despite stronger growth indicators persuaded the Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) of the Reserve Bank on Friday to stand pat on the rates front as well as the policy stance for the eighth time in a row.

Ever since the February 2023 review, the Reserve Bank's panel has left the repo rate — the benchmark rate below which a lender cannot extend loans and the rate at which banks borrow from the central bank — unchanged at 6.50%.

The policy boosted both the equity and money markets with indices closing at record highs while the rupee gained 14 paise against the greenback. However, fearing delayed rates cut, the bond yield remained above 7% to close at 7.016%.

Reserve Bank Governor Shaktikanta Das at a press meet in Mumbai | PTI

The decision to hold the rates was not unanimous, as two of the six members on the panel — Dr Ashima Goyal and Prof Jayanth R Varma — voted for a rate cut by 25 basis points and change in the policy stance.

Expecting the economy to fare better on the back of the unexpected jump in the growth numbers to 8.2% in the just concluded fiscal 2024, Reserve Bank governor Shaktikanta Das revised upwards the central bank's growth forecast by 20 basis points to 7.2% for the current fiscal. In the past two reviews, the GDP projection was maintained at 7%.

Underlining the MPC's resolve to fight inflation, which it fears may spike from the third quarter partly due to the low base effect and partly due to the still adamant food prices, the panel also decided to maintain the policy stance of withdrawal of accommodation to ensure that inflation progressively aligns to the target, while supporting growth.

On the rationale for raising the growth numbers, Das said high frequency indicators of domestic activity are showing resilience in FY25. And the Southwest monsoon is expected to be above normal. P13

Odisha CM: Action shifts to Delhi

BIJOY PRADHAN @ Bhubaneswar

AS June 10 inches closer and preparations for the first BJP government's swearing-in get intense in Odisha, action shifted to Delhi on Friday. Sources said a number of MLAs have been summoned to the national capital where the Central leadership is likely to take the call on the new leader of the BJP legislature party.

Separate meetings of the MLAs and all the MPs of Odisha have reportedly been fixed with Union Home Minister Amit Shah and BJP national president JP Nadda on Saturday over the selection of chief minister of the BJP government which will take oath on June 10 as announced by Prime Minister-elect Narendra Modi.

All the newly-elected MPs from the state had left for Delhi on Thursday for the meeting of the NDA members held at the Central Hall of the old Parliament on the day. The BJP parliamentary board was scheduled to meet in the evening after the PM designate Modi and leaders of NDA partners met President Droupadi Murmu.

Apart from working out details of the council of ministers, sources said the BJP parliamentary board is likely to take a call on the new chief minister of Odisha.

The BJP state unit chief Manmohan Samal and Sambalpur MLA Jayanarayana Mishra, both members of the BJP parliamentary board, are already in the national capital.

CONTINUED ON: P4

Ballari MP-elect eyeing berth in Siddu cabinet?

KIRAN BALANNANAVAR @ Ballari

BALLARI MP-elect E Tukaram is unlikely to resign as Sandur MLA and go to the Lok Sabha, according to sources.

This move is in view of B Nagendra quitting the Siddaramaiah cabinet over the alleged misappropriation of funds in the Karnataka Maharshi Valmiki Scheduled Tribes Development Corporation Ltd., the sources said. After Tukaram's followers and supporters got an inkling of Nagendra's resignation a few days ago, they held a meeting and batted for their leader's induction into the cabinet, they said. In the just concluded LS polls, Tukaram trounced BJP's B Sriramulu in Ballari by a huge margin. Tukaram is now hoping for a ministerial berth, representing Ballari district, in the cabinet.

CONTINUED ON: P4

LS POLL OUTCOME

RAHUL PULLS UP MINS FOR CONG'S DISMAL SHOW

DEVARAJ B HIREHALLI
@ Bengaluru

SENIOR Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Friday expressed dissatisfaction over the party's "dismal" performance in the LS elections in Karnataka and sought a report from Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and DCM DK Shivakumar, according to sources.

Action against the ministers, who failed in ensuring the victory of the party candidates, is likely soon. Rahul also expressed his discontent over a dozen ministers' failure to ensure good leads for the party candidates in their respective assembly constituencies, the sources said.

Rahul interacted with the newly-elected party MPs and defeated candidates at the KPCC office. Later, he met the ministers and took those, who failed in ensuring the victory of the party candidates, to task.

A report on the party's defeat in Chitradurga, Kolar, Tumakuru and Bagalkot constituencies because of internal bickering was with Rahul. AICC general secretary Randeep Singh Surjewala had acted upon it, according to a source.

"Rahul discussed this with all ministers. The high command has sought a report on the election results. We will discuss with all our leaders and submit it," Shivakumar told reporters.

He said Rahul expected 5-6 seats more for the party in the state. He along with Siddaramaiah will take part in the Congress Working Committee (CWC) meeting in New Delhi on Saturday. After returning, they will prepare an action plan to resolve all issues within the party, he added.

CONTINUED ON: P4

Rahul granted bail by special court in defamation case

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi appeared before a court in Bengaluru on Friday in connection with the defamation case filed against him. The 42nd Additional Chief Metropolitan Magistrate (ACMM) Court granted him bail | P4

LAND FOR JOBS

CBI files final chargesheet against Lalu and 77 others

MUKESH RANJAN @ New Delhi

THE Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) on Friday filed its conclusive chargesheet in the alleged land-for-jobs scam involving Lalu Prasad Yadav.

The third and final chargesheet submitted by the probe agency before a special court in Delhi names 78 accused, including Lalu, his wife Rabri Devi, son Tej Pratap Yadav and daughter Hema Yadav.

It covers all railway zones where the recruitment was made allegedly in return for land taken by members of Lalu Prasad Yadav's family, a CBI official said.

"During the investigation, it has been found that the accused in conspiracy with the Railways officials and engaged persons as 'substitutes' in lieu of land either in their name or in the name of their close relatives. This land was acquired at prices lower than the prevailing circle rate and much lower than the market rate," a senior CBI official said.

The official added that no public notice or advertisement was issued for these appointments, yet candidates from Patna were employed in Mumbai, Jabalpur, Kolkata, Jaipur and Hajipur.

The CBI found Lalu Prasad, in furtherance of a criminal conspiracy along with officers of Railways, his family members and others, engaged candidates as Group D substitutes in 11 zones of Indian Railways in complete violation of the extant guidelines, the CBI spokesperson said.

Meanwhile, the central agency informed the court that prosecution sanction from competent authority was still awaited. The court cannot take cognizance of the case without such sanction. Officials said the court will take cognisance and hear the matter on July 6.

Earlier, on May 29, the court had directed the CBI to file its conclusive chargesheet at the earliest and expressed displeasure over the delay.

Besides Lalu and family, 29 Railways officials, 37 candidates and six other private persons have been named in the chargesheet, they said.

Bhavani gets bail, can't enter Hassan district

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Bengaluru

KEEPING in abeyance the non-bailable warrant (NBW) issued against **Bhavani Revanna**, mother of JDS leader Prajwal Revanna, in a kidnapping case, the High Court of Karnataka on Friday granted her interim anticipatory bail and directed her to appear before the SIT by 1 pm the same day.

After the court issued the order around 11 am, Bhavani rushed to the SIT office around 12:40 pm with her advocate Arun. To evade the media, she reportedly switched from her SUV to a hatchback, a few km from the SIT office. After four hours of questioning, she left the office around 5.10 pm.

Earlier, the high court directed Bhavani not to enter KR Nagar taluk in Mysuru district and Hassan district. Justice Krishna S Dixit passed the order granting her interim anticipatory bail by imposing stringent conditions.

CONTINUED ON: P5

EXPRESS READ

Bus fare hike on the cards in Karnataka

Bengaluru: As the price of diesel, spareparts and other components has risen as also the salaries of employees, the operational cost of RTC buses has shot up. Now, the RTCs are getting ready to increase the bus fares. The Karnataka government is likely to accept a hike of 10-15% | P2

Seven Maoists shot dead in Chhattisgarh

Raipur: At least seven members of the banned CPI (Maoists) were killed in an exchange of fire with the security forces at Mungedi village along the inter-district border of Narayanpur, Dantewada and Kondagaon on Friday night.

Four Indian students drown in Russian river

Moscow: Four Indian medical students were drowned in a river near St Petersburg in Russia. The four students, two boys and two girls, were studying at Novgorod State University. The Indian mission in Russia is making arrangements to send their bodies home.

34 monkeys sedated, beaten to death in Chikkamagaluru

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Chikkamagaluru

IN a gruesome incident, 34 monkeys were sedated and beaten to death at Dyavana in NR Pura taluk on Friday.

They were reportedly fed bananas laced with a sedative.

People of Dyavana found the bodies of monkeys along the village main road. The bodies bore deep injury marks.

Residents of Malnad have a history of hiring monkey catchers to protect their crops such as coffee and banana from the primates. However, local officials termed this incident a deliberate act of cruelty. "It appears to be the work of some miscreants. The reason for killing the monkeys is yet to be ascertained," said officials who visited the spot.

Wildlife activists and animal lovers condemned the killing of monkeys and demanded that stern action be taken against those responsible for it. NR Pura police have launched a hunt for the miscreants.

CONMEN AT WORK

Six try to sell IGP's office land, held

PRAVEEN KUMAR
@ Bengaluru

SIX people, who tried to sell the office premises of the Central Range Inspector General of Police (IGP) and the Bengaluru Rural Superintendent on Millers Road in the city by reportedly creating fake documents, have been arrested by High Grounds police.

The five-acre plot is now worth more than Rs 200 crore. The name of the building where the police department's offices are housed is 'Om Mahal'.

The arrested have been identified as MD Haneef of Vidyaranyapura, Rajashekar of Vijaynagar, Mohammad Nadeem of Ramasandra Main Road in Ullal, Mohan Shetty of Sanjaynagar and Zaheer Ahmed.

The incident happened on Monday between 1 pm and 1.30 pm. The accused allegedly trespassed into the plot and began clicking pictures and making videos.

Wireless inspector Santhosh Gowda, who is also the estate officer, observed their suspicious movements and questioned them. The accused warned the inspector that the owner of the plot gave them the General Power of Attorney (GPA) a few days ago and they have the right to sell it.

The inspector, after bringing the matter to his higher-ups, filed a complaint with High Grounds police.

It is said that the plot belonged to the royal family of Nepal. However, the ownership details are not clear. The police department's offices have been functioning from the plot since 1962.

"There is confusion over the ownership of the property. It is said that the premises belonged to a Nepali King. There have been several correspondences by the state government to register the property so that it can be developed," Mallikarjun Baladandi, Bengaluru Rural SP, told *The New Indian Express*.